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FILE DESIGNATION

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FROM : Amembassy, GUATEMALA

ANALYSIS BRANCH DATE: February 11, 1972

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of Incidents,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, January 1972

REF :

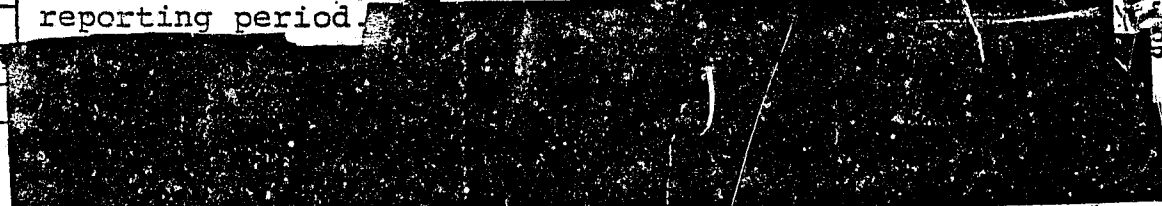
REVIEWED BY CAF DATE 7 Oct 1981
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUMMARY: In contrast to recent months, guerrillas in January went after Government targets, killing six members of an Army patrol and, apparently, an MLN mayor. Army counter-guerrilla actions were unsuccessful. The GOG's continued efforts to bolster its image in the security field were offset by numerous charges of Government repression or inaction. Overall, the January press recorded 90 incidents of a probable political nature, a total below the 1971 monthly average (103). However, 70% of all the month's incidents occurred in the last half of January and this may portend a trend. END SUMMARY

Terrorist Actions

Guerrillas ended a month's long operational slowdown, killing six members of a Peten Army patrol on January 9. Shotguns used in the attack point to an increased terrorist attack capability. Guerrillas appear to have been involved in the January 30 assassination of Jose LEMUS Sanchinelli, a Chiquimula Department mayor and close friend of President Arana.

The Communist Party's action arm, the PGT/FAR, is not known to have engaged in any major actions during the reporting period.



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COMMENT: The PGT has certainly not abandoned armed revolution as a tactic, but it seems of late to have concentrated on political proselytizing.

Counter-Guerrilla Actions Unsuccessful

These guerrilla actions have greatly disturbed the Army and President Arana personally, but Government counter measures have been notably unproductive. The search for the Peten patrol's attackers was delayed several days and had no positive results. The Army's end-of-the-month chase of guerrillas reported near the Mexican border was [REDACTED] equally unsuccessful. [REDACTED]

Anti-Crime Campaign Continues

The GOG attempt to improve its pacification image continued in full gear. Government Minister Jorge ARENALES Catalan saw the press frequently, offered to privately dialogue with the AEU university student association (they refused), and reiterated that the Government had released all prisoners held for security measures during the state of siege. Furthermore, police sources announced that 87 detectives had been dismissed since January 11 occasioning one newspaper to speculate that a more compact detective corps would be formed.

COMMENT: Tenure is difficult to achieve in the National Police. In 1971, 650 policemen were purged for misconduct. In mid-1970, 400 were dismissed shortly after the new Administration took office, etc.

Clandestine GOG Actions

[REDACTED] Minister Arenales denied charges that security forces were killing prisoners in Zacapa after one criminal was found shot to death in early January in the Department. GOG involvement is also suspected in a mysterious kidnapping of three criminals and their three escorting policemen on a South Coast road. [REDACTED]

Anti-GOG Protests

Several organizations and individuals protested Government repression and inaction. (NOTE: These charges are much more easily made now that siege press restrictions are off.) The Pro-Disappearances Committee, supported by the AEU, asked the Papal Nuncio's intervention in locating 90 missing individuals. The Central de Trabajadores Federados (CTF) denounced assaults against CTF leaders in San Marcos and other Departments.

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Christian Democrat Deputy Rene DE LEON Schlotter publicly complained about Military Policemen beating up a 58-year-old Escuintla citizen. And complaints of harassment in San Marcos led to the arrests of seven Military Policemen in that Department. Finally, Guatemala City Mayor Manuel COLOM Argueta called for a Government investigation of the Lemus shooting, stating that the GOG had in fact investigated only one of many other alcalde assassinations.

COMMENT: The GOG's good intentions and actions to improve its image are being offset by frequent charges of GOG repression and inaction in the security field.

Statistics

January's 90 press-reported incidents of a probable political nature were below the 1971 rate (103). However, 70% occurred in the last half of the month and may indicate the trend which the new year will take. Terrorist involvement was suspected or reported in eight (9%) of the month's incidents, the Government may have participated in seven (8%), and the remainder are unattributable. Half of all incidents occurred on the South Coast, and, for the second straight month, the Eastern Region surpassed the capital in political violence. There were 54 political deaths reported this month, 14 involving olive green uniformed bands who could pertain to Government, terrorist, or criminal forces.

Three Government reports were published this month. The police said that they had made more than 10,000 arrests in January. They also released a three-year summary which included the assassinations of 50 policemen, half in 1971. The President's state of siege report was finally released to the press. It said that the siege had cost the GOG almost Q900,000 (Q1 = \$1) and that 69 security force members were included among the siege's victims.

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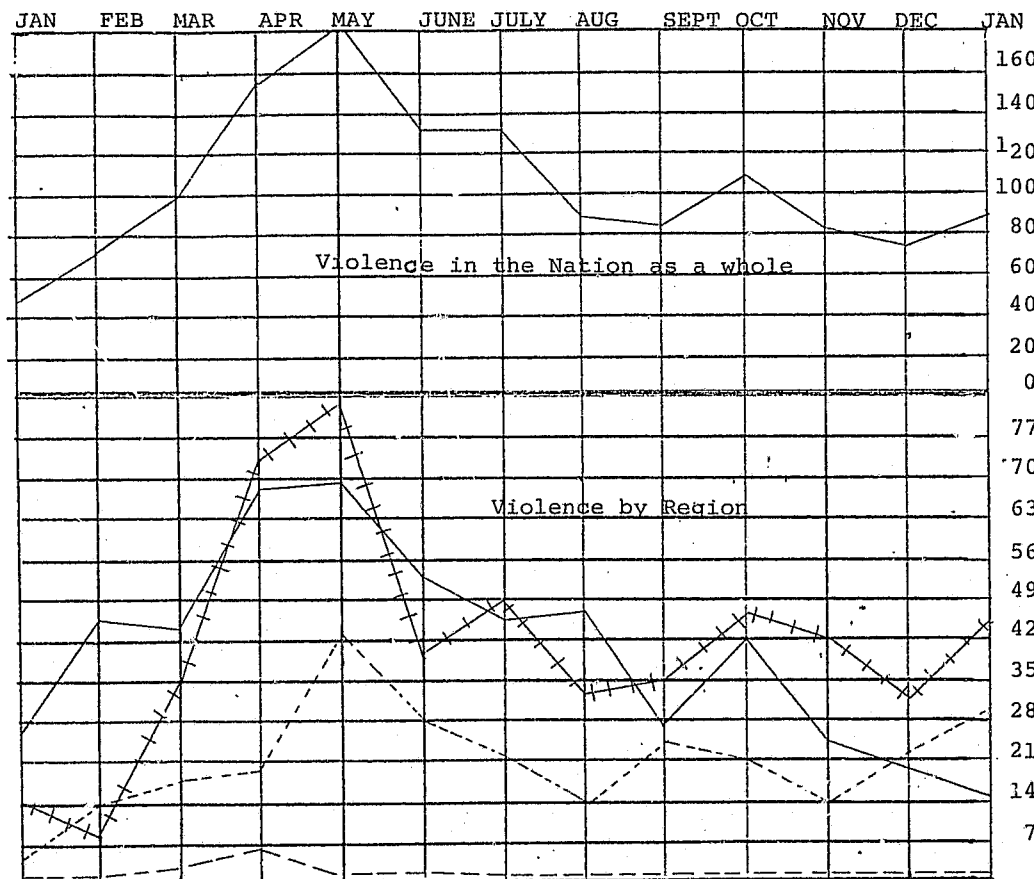
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Enclosure:

Monthly Frequency of Political Incidents by Region

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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS, BY REGION - JANUARY 1971 - JANUARY 1972

area 2/ Guatemala



Total - 90

For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings, and deaths, all of which appear to be politically motivated.

- Capital area - Sacatepequez, Guatemala
- South Coast - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
- Eastern Region - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten
- Highlands - Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola